

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/814,258

Examiner

King Y. Poon

Applicant(s)

ALEXANDER, RICHARD

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 6/1/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-4, 6-13, 15-18, 20-25, 27-29, 31-35, 37-39; renumbered as claims 1-32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/20/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Art Unit: 2624

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to a method and system of bidding print priority of print requests.

Independent claim 3 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "wherein the bids specify a current bid and a maximum bid, and further comprising, in an event multiple print jobs have identical bids, increasing a bid of at least one print job without exceeding the maximum bid."

Independent claim 8 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "wherein the user interface further facilitates entry of a maximum number of print tokens that the user is willing to bid, and further comprising increasing the bid without exceeding the maximum number of print tokens in an event that another print job has a higher bid."

Independent claim 13 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "reducing, at the user computer, the number of print tokens available for bidding by the number of print tokens used in the bid."

Independent claim 16 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "wherein the enabling comprises permitting a user to specify a maximum bid so that their original bid may be increased to an increased bid that does not exceed the maximum bid in order to gain priority over a job request with a bid that is higher than the original bid."

Independent claim 21 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "wherein individual user computing devices comprise a user interface that facilitates user entry of an initial bid and a maximum bid that the user is willing to bid in an event that another print job has a bid that is higher than the initial bid."

Independent claim 28 identifies the uniquely distinct features of “wherein the bids include an initial bid value and a maximum bid value, and the bid-based prioritizer is further configured to increase the bid of a print job from its initial bid value up to the maximum bid value in an attempt to gain priority over another print job with a bid that is initially higher than the initial bid value.”

Independent claim 29 identifies the uniquely distinct features of “wherein the bids are measured in tokens and the bid-based prioritizer is further configured to utilize one or more fewer tokens than specified in a bid for a particular print job so long as priority of the particular print job is not affected.”

Independent claim 33 identifies the uniquely distinct features of “wherein the user interface permits the user to specify a maximum bid along with an original bid, and the prioritizing module increases the number of print tokens from its original bid up to the maximum bid in an event that another print job has a bid that is initially higher than the original bid.”

Independent claim 34 identifies the uniquely distinct features of “wherein the bids are measured in tokens and the bid-based prioritizer is further configured to utilize one or more fewer tokens than specified in the bid so long as priority of the print job is not affected.”

The closest prior art, Keane et al (US 6,650,433) teaches a similar method and system of bidding print priority of print requests, either singularly or in combination with

Art Unit: 2624

other cited references, fail to anticipate or render the above underline limitations obvious (to be used in combine with other claimed limitations).

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is 571-272-7440. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 27, 2005


KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER